

**States that Guarantee a Right of Access to Information (RTI)
in National/Federal Laws or Decrees + Dates of Adoption & Significant Amendments:
127 (out of 193) UN member states + 2 non-member states,
as of May 2019¹**

**African Union w/o Arab
League States (21/45)²**

Angola 2002, 2006
Benin 2015
Burkina Faso 2015
Cote d'Ivoire 2013
*Ethiopia 2008
† Ghana 2019
Kenya, 2016
Liberia 2010
Malawi 2017
Mozambique 2015
^Niger 2011
*Nigeria 2011
Rwanda 2013
Seychelles 2018
Sierra Leone 2013
*South Africa 2000
*South Sudan 2013
*Tanzania 2016
Togo 2016
Uganda 2005
Zimbabwe 2002, 2007

**OAS-English speaking
(10/14)³**

Antigua & Barbuda 2004
Bahamas 2017
Belize 1994, 2000
*Canada 1983, 2001, 2016
Guyana 2011
Jamaica 2002
St. Kitts & Nevis 2018
St. Vinc. & Grenadines 2003
Trinidad&Tobago 1999,2011
*USA 1966,'74,'96,2007,'16

**OAS non-English
(16/21)⁴**

*Argentina 2003, 2016
^*Bolivia 2004, 2005
*Brazil 2011
Chile 2008
Colombia 1985, 2014
Dominican Republic 2004
Ecuador 2004
El Salvador 2011
Guatemala 2008
Honduras 2006
*Mexico 2002, 2006, 2016
Nicaragua 2007
Panama 2002, 2013

Paraguay 2014
Peru 2002, 2017
Uruguay 2008

Asia, South (7/8)⁵

Afghanistan 2014
Bangladesh 2008, 2009
*India 2005
Maldives, 2014
*Nepal 2007
^*Pakistan 2002, 2017
Sri Lanka 2016

Asia, Central (4/5)⁶

Kazakhstan 2015
Kyrgyzstan 2006,2016
Tajikistan 2002
Uzbekistan 1997

Asia, other (10/17)⁷

^China 2007
*Indonesia 2008
Japan 1999, 2003
Korea, South 1996,2004,'13
Mongolia, 2011
^*Philippines 2016
±Taiwan 2005⁸
Thailand 1997
Timor-Leste 2016
Vietnam 2016

EU (28/28)

*Austria 1987, 2005
*Belgium 1994, 2000
Bulgaria 2000
Croatia 2003, 2013
†Cyprus 2017
Czech Republic 1999, 2006
Denmark 1985, 2000
Estonia 2000, 2009
Finland 1951, 1999, 2009
*France 1978, 2005
*Germany 2005
Greece 1986, 1999
Hungary 1992, 2003
Ireland 1997, 2003, 2005
*Italy 1990, 1997, 2016
Latvia 1998
Lithuania 2000, 2005
† Luxembourg 2018
Malta 2009, 2012
*Netherlands 1978, 2005

Poland 2001
*Portugal 1993, 1999
Romania 2001, 2007
Slovakia 2000, 2008
Slovenia 2003, 2005, 2017
*Spain 2013
Sweden 1766, 1976
*United Kingdom 2000

**Council of Europe Non-
EU (18/19)⁹**

Albania 1999, 2014
Armenia 2003
Azerbaijan 2005
*Bosnia Herzegovina 2000
Georgia 1998, 2001
Iceland 1996, 2003, 2012
Liechtenstein 1999
Moldova 2000, 2003
†Monaco 2011, 2013
Montenegro 2005, 2017
North Macedonia 2006, '08
Norway 1970, 2006
*Russia 2009, 2011
†San Marino 2011, 2016
Serbia 2003, 2007
*Switzerland 2004
Turkey 2003
*Ukraine 1992,'02,'11,'15

Arab League (6/22)¹⁰

Jordan 2007
Lebanon 2017
Morocco 2018
†*Sudan 2015
Tunisia 2011, 2016
Yemen 2012

Pacific (5/14)¹¹

*Australia 1982, '04, '09
Fiji 2018
New Zealand 1982, 2003
*Palau 2014
Vanuatu 2013, 2016

Other States (3/4)¹²

Iran, 2011
Israel 1998, 2009
±Kosovo 2003¹³

**Territories and
Dependencies¹⁴**

± - Country not formally recognized by the UN ^- Actionable RTI regulation/decreed rather than a law
† - Not rated by RTI-Rating.org *- Federal system, several states also have laws

Footnotes – including countries by region without RTI Laws or Provisions

1. These numbers are consistent with, and based on, the two main expert lists of RTI laws, compiled by Article 19 and the Global RTI Rating, which rates 122 states, including the 2 non-UN member states (Taiwan, Kosovo) included in our list, 2 non-states (Bermuda and Cook Islands), and has yet to rate 6 states: Cyprus, Ghana, Luxembourg, Monaco, San Marino, and Sudan. See Article 19, "Open Development: Access to Information and the Sustainable Development Goals," (July 2017), Appendix (118 UN member states with RTI laws or regulations, omits Timor-Leste); "Right to Know Day 2017: Progress on the right to information around the world," (Sept 28, 2017).
2. AU countries (55 total)- excluding 10 that are members of the Arab League (3 with laws- Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia) and 7 w/o laws (Algeria, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Somalia): 24 w/o RTI laws – Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, CAR, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, eSwatini (previously Swaziland), Gabon, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Saharawi Arab Demo. Rep. (formerly Western Sahara) [not a UN member state], Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Zambia.
3. OAS English-speaking: 4 countries w/o an RTI law - Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, and St. Lucia.
4. OAS non-English-speaking: 5 countries w/o an RTI law - Costa Rica, Cuba (a non-participating member of the OAS), Haiti, Suriname, Venezuela.
5. Asia, South (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation): 1 country w/o an RTI law – Bhutan.
6. Asia, Central: one country w/o an RTI law - Turkmenistan.
7. Asia, other (North, Southeast): 7 countries w/o an RTI law - Brunei, Cambodia, Korea (North), Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore.
8. As of August 2018, Taiwan (Republic of China) maintained official diplomatic relations with [16 UN member states](#) and the Holy See, and informal relations with nearly all other states. Agencies of foreign governments operate as *de facto* embassies in Taiwan, and Taiwan operates similar *de facto* embassies and consulates in most countries.
9. Council of Europe, non-EU - one country w/o an RTI law: Andorra.
10. Arab League-16 states w/o RTI law: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine [not a UN member state], Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria and UAE.
11. Pacific - 9 countries w/o an RTI law: Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu.
12. Other UN members states – one w/o an RTI law: Belarus.
13. Kosovo, as of February 2018, was [recognized as an independent state](#) by 58% of UN member states, including the US, Canada, more than 80% of EU and NATO member states, and more than 60% of the members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. It is *not* recognised by 82 UN member states, including Serbia, Russia, China, India, Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa. It is counted as a country here as well as by the Global RTI-Rating given that it functions as an independent country.
14. There are at least 61 territories or dependencies, governed by 8 countries: Australia (6), Denmark (2), Netherlands (2), France (16), New Zealand (3), Norway (3), United Kingdom (15), and the United States (14). See <https://www.infoplease.com/world/countries/territories-colonies-and-dependencies>. Several have RTI laws, including Bermuda 2010, Cayman Islands 2007, Cook Islands 2007, and Guernsey 2013.

For more, see www.right2info.org and <http://www.rti-rating.org/country-data>, or contact Sandra.Coliver@OpenSocietyFoundations.org.